

Writing at Milestones

PAG Presentation

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Agenda

- Introduction
- Challenges with Writing
- Writing at Milestones
- Hierarchy and Process
- Sample Writing Assignment

Background

- **Life before Milestones**

- *21 years at Landmark School*
- *teacher/tutor, case manager, Assistant Academic Dean, Academic Dean & Assistant Head of High School*

- **Why Education?**

- *YMCA Experience*
- *My niece Erin*

- **Personal Level**

- *Family*

Programmatic Goals

- Increase writing demands for our students
 - *Frequency*
 - *Length*
 - *Sophistication*
- Develop a consistent approach to writing throughout the school.

Writing is *HARD*

What challenges do ***you*** see with your child when given writing tasks?

What challenges do ***we*** see with our students when given writing tasks?

Writing is *HARD*

- Understanding the Question
- Predicting the length of Response
- Visualizing the Steps
- Generating Ideas
- Identifying relevant details
- Expanding upon thoughts
- Organizing thoughts
- Graphomotor Demands
- Accepting feedback
- Implementing suggestions
- Sentence Structure
- Standard English Conventions - spelling, punctuation, capitalization

Defining Writing at Milestones

<i>Hierarchy of Writing Skills</i>	<i>Writing Process</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Simple Sentence● Compound & Complex Sentences● Single Paragraph● Multi-Paragraph● Essays	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Analyze a Prompt● Brainstorm● Outline● Draft● Revise & Edit● Final Draft

Paragraph Structure

At a minimum, a paragraph should include:

Topic Sentence

3 Details

Concluding Sentence

As a student's writing progresses, paragraphs will include:

Elaborations

Transitional Words/Phrases

Transitional Sentences

The Prompt

Includes three components:

- *Introduces the topic*
- *Encourages the student to brainstorm*
- *Provide directions for the writing assignment*

Conflict exists in all stories. Think about the types of conflict found in *Of Mice and Men*. Using your notes from the story, write a single paragraph outlining three examples of conflict.

(Step in the Writing Process: Analyzing the Prompt)

Topic Sentence

Defines what the paragraph is going to be about.

Examples

There are many examples of conflict in *Of Mice and Men*.

In the novel, *Of Mice and Men*, several examples of conflict exist.

(Step in the Writing Process: Outline)

Details

Support the topic sentence.

Examples

There is conflict between George and Curly.

Lennie has inner conflict trying to decide how to live with George.

Candy is a character who is in conflict with society.

(Step in the Writing Process: Brainstorm and Outline)

Concluding Sentences

Wrap up the paragraph.

Examples

Various types of conflict are found in *Of Mice and Men*.

Man versus man, man versus self, and man versus society are all examples of conflict that can be found within Steinbeck's novel, *Of Mice and Men*.

(Step in the Writing Process: Outline)

Basic Paragraph

There are many examples of conflict in *Of Mice and Men*. There is conflict between George and Curly. Lennie has inner conflict because of George. Candy is a character who has conflict with society. Various types of conflict are found in *Of Mice and Men*.

Elaborations

Support the detail sentences.

Examples

There is conflict between George and Curly.

- *George was attacked by Curly, and fought back after Lennie gave him permission to.*

Lennie has inner conflict trying to decide how to live with George.

- *Lennie's life is harder because he has to look after George the way a parent takes care of a child.*

Candy is a character who is in conflict with society.

- *Since Candy is old and lost his hand, he is looked down upon by the other workers.*

(Step in the Writing Process: Brainstorm or Outline)

More Advanced Paragraph

Now includes transitional words and elaborations

There are many examples of conflict in Of Mice and Men. One type of conflict is between George and Curly. George was attacked by Curly, and fought back after Lennie gave him permission to. Another example of conflict is Lennie's inner conflict because of George. Lennie's life is harder because he has to look after George the way a parent takes care of a child. A third example is the conflict Candy has with society. Since Candy is old and lost his hand, he is looked down upon by the other workers. Various types of conflict are found in Of Mice and Men.

How Do We Support Students

Accommodations

- Utilizing Graphic Organizers.
- Speech-to-Text Features.
- Provide Sentence Starters.
- Use of a Proofreading Checklist.

Work Collaboratively

- Break down the Prompt as a class.
- Generating a Topic Sentence for all students to use.
- Brainstorm Details together.
- Fill in the Graphic Organizer together.
- Provide multiple quotes students may choose from to use as an elaboration.
- Provide a list of transitional words/phrases to choose from.